

# Child and Family Services Update

February 3, 2003

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## Legislative Update

*By Richard Anderson*

Adam is doing his regular great job in keeping all of us knowledgeable about the Legislative Session. We have not had the activity that we had last year. Most of the bills have been fine-tuning items that are really not of any major change to our services. We still have some things cropping up from time to time that are a little scary, but at least so far we have had a chance to discuss these with the potential sponsors of the bills. I really believe that the work you are doing in the field and the implementation of the practices in our model is changing perceptions. The more trust, respect, and openness that you build into your work, the stronger we are in focusing on building a better child welfare agency.

I appreciate that this year is a very difficult year for Legislators. Imagine going through all the budget cutting that was done in the last two years and coming back into session with an even worse financial environment. The Governor has asked that our agency be held harmless in the cuts. The Legislative Analyst has recommended some budget decreases in areas that he determined were not part of the lawsuit. We, along with you, I'm sure, are hoping for the best.